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J chain

<[molecular biology](#)> A [polypeptide chain](#) (15 kD), found in [IgA](#) and in [IgM](#) joining [heavy chains](#) ([H chains](#)) to each other to form [dimers](#) of IgA and pentamers of IgM. [Disulphide bonds](#) are [formed](#) between the [J chain](#) and H chains [near](#) the [Fc ends](#) of the [heavy chains](#). Despite the [similar](#) name, it is not [identical](#) with the [J region](#) or coded for by the [J gene](#).

Synonym: J piece.

(10 Jan 1998)

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